

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 providing a battery to a user and,
 communicating battery usage to a remote monitor.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the usage is communicated by transmitting a signal representative of the usage over the Internet.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the usage is communicated by a wireless channel.
4. The method of claim 1 comprising communicating with the user based on the usage.
5. The method of claim 4 comprising communicating a bill based on the usage.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the bill is communicated to the user by the Internet.
7. The method of claim 1 comprising providing the battery to the user without a purchase fee.
8. The method of claim 1 comprising providing the battery in a device to a user without a purchase fee.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the device is a communication device.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the usage is communicated by the device.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the battery is a single use battery.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein the battery usage is based on recharge cycles.

1 14. A method, comprising:

2 providing a battery or a battery-powered device to a user;

3 determining the usage of the battery or the device, and/or the terms of providing the
4 battery or device; and

5 determining a fee based on the usage and/or the terms.

1 15. The method of claim 14 comprising:

2 communicating the usage and/or terms to an external monitor.

1 16. The method of claim 15 comprising:

2 transmitting the usage and/or terms over the Internet.

1 17. The method of claim 14 comprising:

2 recording the usage and/or terms in a module attached to the battery, the device, or a
3 recharger for recharging the battery or device.

1 18. The method of claim 14 comprising:

2 providing a plurality of vending stations that dispense and/or recharge said battery or
3 device, where the fee for replacement or recharging is based on the usage and/or said
4 terms.

1 19. The method of claim 14 comprising:

2 providing a rechargeable battery or a device with a rechargeable battery.

1 20. The method of claim 14 comprising:

2 providing a single-use battery or battery-powered device with a single use battery.

1 21. A battery including an electronically readable identification module and a usage
2 module.

1 22. The battery of claim 21 including a communication device facilitating communication
2 of usage to an external device.

1 23. The battery of claim 21 further including a battery device detector that detects the
2 device in which the battery is installed.

1 24. The battery of claim 23 wherein the detector verifies the installed device as a
2 permissible device.

1 25. The battery of claim 21 including a disabler capable of disabling battery use.

1 26. The battery of claim 21 wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.

1 27. A battery having attached thereto an electrically readable terms module, including a
2 representation of battery acquisition and/or recharge terms.

1 28. The battery of claim 27 including an identification module.

1 29. The battery of claim 27 including a communication device for facilitating
2 communication to an external device.

1 30. The battery of claim 27 including a usage module.

1 31. The battery of claim 27 wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.

1 32. A vending station, comprising:
2 a device or battery recharging or dispensing apparatus; and
3 a terms module for determining the terms under which a battery or device will be
4 recharged or dispensed.

1 33. The vending station of claim 32 including a module for determining from a battery or
2 device previous terms under which the battery or device was provided to a user and/or
3 recharged.

1 34. The vending station of claim 32 comprising an identification apparatus which
2 determines whether a battery or device is suitable for recharge or replacement.

1 35. The vending station of claim 33 or 34 including a device or battery receiving
2 apparatus that receives a battery or device from a user.

1 36. The vending station of claim 32 including a payment receptacle capable of receiving
2 a prepaid card or a credit card.

1 37. A battery charging apparatus including a communication module capable of
2 facilitating communication related to the use of the charger or a battery installed in the
3 charger.

1 38. The charging apparatus of claim 37 including an identification module.

1 39. The charging apparatus of claim 37 including a verification module for verifying an
2 installed battery/or device as a permissible battery and/or device.

1 40. The charging apparatus of claim 37 including a disabler.

1 41. An external monitor comprising:

2 a communication module adapted to receive a communication of battery
3 identification and/or usage;
4 an account storage module to store the identification and usage information; and
5 a billing module to initiate billing based on the identification and usage information.

1 42. An external monitor including:

2 a communication module adapted to receive a communication of terms and/or usage
3 of a battery and/or device; and
4 a transaction computer adapted to compute a fee based on the terms and/or usage.

1 43. A system for using a battery or battery-powered device, comprising:

- 2 a battery or battery-powered device having an identification module;
- 3 a battery usage and/or terms detector;
- 4 an external monitor capable of receiving identification and/or usage and/or terms
- 5 information; and
- 6 a communication apparatus for communicating identification and usage to the
- 7 external monitor.